

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, OTRA, NATO

SUBJECT: THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

REFS: (A) PARIS 2366; (B) 2081; (C) PARIS 2084; (D) BONN
940; (E) PARIS 1391; (F) STATE 6444; (G) HAGUE 5607;
(H) PARIS 32642; (I) PARIS 32528; (J) PARIS 32185

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION BELIEVES THERE IS NEED TO FOCUS
ON RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU)
AND TO DEVELOP A CONSISTENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD IT. FRENCH
EFFORTS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE WEU BOTH
FOR PURPOSES OF SERVING AS FOUNDATION FOR EC-9 DEFENSE COOPERATION
AND AS A MECHANISM TO FIND MARKETS FOR FRENCH ARMAMENTS ARE
CLEARLY MATTERS OF MAJOR INTEREST. FURTHERMORE, THE RECENT FLURRY
OF ACTIVITY BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE WEU COULD PERHAPS DISTRACT
U.S. EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES FROM OTHER PARLIAMENTARY
ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY
(NAA), THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BE
MORE IN LINE WITH U.S. INTERESTS. END SUMMARY

1. IN CULMULATIVE INFORMATION IN REFTELS AND OTHER REPORTS OF
RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE WEU, MISSION DISCERNs CAUTION SIGNS FOR
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U.S. POLICY. IN THE FIRST PLACE, RECENT FRENCH EFFORTS TO
REINVIGORATE THE WEU AS SEEN FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT SEEM TO BE
DESIGNED FOR FRENCH ADVANTAGE, TO THE DETRIMENT OF
WIDER ALLIANCE INTERESTS. SIMILARITIES OF NEW WEU AIMS TO THE

GENERAL FRENCH POLICIES TOWARD NATO, THE EC, THE REST OF EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICAN ALLIES ARE DISTURBING.

2. SECOND, RECENT NEW ENTHUSIASM WITHIN THE WEU FOR "SUROPEAN" COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF ARMS IS IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH THE EUROGROUP WHICH, FROM THE U.S. STANDPOINT IS A VASTLY BETTER FORUM FOR SUCH COOPERATION. THOUGH FRANCE IS NOT NOW A MEMBER, THE EUROGROUP INCLUDES REPRESENTATION FROM THE NATO FLANKS, (DENMARK,GREECE, NORWAY AND TURKEY). IS IS A NATO AFFILIATE, AND IT HAS THE BLESSING OF THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE. FRANCE IS WELCOME TO JOIN AT ANY TIME. IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE ALLIANCE IF IT WOULD SO SO. FRANCE IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO IF THE WEU SERVES FRANCE'S COMMERCIAL INTEREST JUST AS WELL.

3. WITH REGARD TO WHETHER THE WEU IS NOW OR MAY SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE BECOME THE CHOSEN INSTRUMENT FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION, MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. HAS YET FORMULATED A POLICY. PERHAPS IT IS A SUBJECT TO WHICH THE U.S. SHOULD NOW GIVE ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH SINCE MEANINGFUL EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION IS A LONG WAY OFF, IT IS PROBABLY TOO EARLY TO TAKE A POSITION. IN ANY EVENT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THE U.S. SHOULD AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION TO ANYONE, ESPECIALLY ANYONE FROM WEU, THAT WE AT THIS POINT ASSUME THAT THE WEU HAS OR WILL HAVE SUCH A PARTICULAR ROLE.

4. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE WEU, ITS INVITATION FOR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS, ITS INVITATIIN TO SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ADDRESS THE NEXT WEU ASSEMBLY SESSION, AND THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH OF TWO OF ITS COMMITTEES, MISSION HAS TWO OBSERVATIONS:

A. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSIES PARIS AND THE HAGUE THAT CONTACTS WITH WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS OF HIGH CALIBER AND PERSUASIVE INFLUENCE OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY OFFER US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE THEM TO OUR VIEWS OF THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP, BURDEN-SHARING, ETC. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, U.S. POLICY MIGHT WISH TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AS INDIVIDUALS ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE HAND AND BUILDING UP THE ASSEMBLY OF THE WEU AS AN ORGANIZATION ON THE OTHER HAND; AND

B. IF IT IS TRUE AS MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS ONLY LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME AND ATTENTION IT CAN DEVOTE TO TRANSATLANTIC PARLIAMENTARY BODIES, AND THAT COOPERATION WITH ONE IS TO SOME SIGNIFICANT EXTENT AT THE EXPENSE OF ATTENTION TO OTHERS, THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY DESERVES A FAR GREATER SHARE OF THAT TIME AND ATTENTION THAN DOES THE WEU, OR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, OR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THE NAA IS THE ONLY TRANS-ATLANTIC INTERPARLIAMENTARY FORUM (THE OTHERS REPRESENT ONLY EUROPE OR PARTS OF EUROPE) AND THEREFORE THE ONLY ONE WHICH HAS OFFICIAL LINKS (RATHER THAN OBSERVER LINKS) BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN

LEGISLATORS AND WEST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY BODIES. IT IS THE ONLY FORUM WHICH INCLUDES ALL ATLANTIC ALLIES. MISSION RECOGNIZES THAT VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN HAVE VARIOUS ENTHUSIASMS AND IN SOME CASES LONG STANDING CONNECTIONS WITH THE STRICTLY EUROPEAN BODIES, BUT THE DEPARTMENT PROBABLY OUGHT TO HAVE A MORE PROPERLY BALANCED POLICY WHERE THERE IS OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE CONGRESSIIONAL SUPPORT OF THEM.

5. MISSION IS NOT RECOMMENDING THAT WE DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE WEU OR ANY OF ITS BODIES. WE ONLY SUGGEST HAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO KEEPING THESE VARIOUS EUROPEAN BASED PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATIVE PERSPECTIVE, AND THAT THE OFFICIAL ATTENTION THE DEPARTMENT GIVES AND ENCOURAGES THE CONGRESS TO GIVE TO THEM BE IN ACCORD WITH THAT PERSPECTIVE.

6. MANY OF THE OBSERVATIONS THE SECRETARY HAS MADE IN RECENT MONTHS ABOUT NATO VERSUS EC-9 ASPECTS OF THE U.S. APPROACH TO ATLANTIC RELATIONS SEEM TO THIS MISSION TO BE APPLICABLE AT LEAST BY ANALOGY TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE NAA ON THE ONE HAND AND THE WEU AND OTHER "EUROPEAN" PARLIAMENTARY BODIES ON THE OTHER HAND.

7. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON THESE TOPICS.
RUMSFELD

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